

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-25, 27, 28 and 30-35 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 28 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 2C and 7D. Claims 18, 19, 23-25, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 33-35 are amended for better clarity. Claims 16, 26, 29 and 36 are canceled.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiners Shah and Martin for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the April 18, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed, and to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the August 23, 2004 Information Disclosure statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0001009 to Gasvoda et al. (Gasvoda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, claim 1 is amended to recite a first direction and an extending portion that has a cross sectional area which gradually decreases in the first direction. As agreed to during the personal interview, Gasvoda does not disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least the above reasons, Gasvoda does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and claims 2-7 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 15 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 06039161 to Kawasato et al. (Kawasato). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, claim 15 is amended to recite electrodes that do not protrude into an interior space of the ink bag. As agreed to during the personal interview, Kawasato does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, Kawasato does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 15, and claims 17-24 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 28, 29, 31-33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 60131248 to Kawashima. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, claim 28 is amended to recite electrodes that do not protrude into an interior space of the ink bag. As agreed to during the personal interview Kawashima does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, Kawashima does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 28, and claims 29, 31, 32 and 35 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28, 29, 31-33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gasvoda in view of Kawasato; rejects claims 9-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gasvoda in view of Kawashima; rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gasvoda and Kawashima in view of Kawasato; rejects claims 16, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawasato in view of Kawashima; rejects claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawasato in view of Gasvoda; and rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawashima in view of Kawasato. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Gasvoda, Kawasato and Kawashima do not supply the subject matter indicated above as lacking in each other. Therefore, Gasvoda, Kawasato and Kawashima, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 15 and 28, and claims 8-14, 25, 27, 30 and 34 depending

therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-14, 25, 27, 30 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15, 17-25, 27, 28 and 30-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/ldg

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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